(b) if so, Government's response thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to issue various departr. small contracts in respect of Railways to unemployed educated engineers/Diploma holders so that these youth can start their own business and get enough experience; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) No. Sir.

(d) Contracts on the Railways are awarded by following a prescribed procedure by giving *vide* publicity. Eligible unemployed youth can also apply for the same.

Complimentary Railway Passes

1956. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of valid Complimentary Railway Card Passes as on 1st April, 2003, category-wise and State-wise; and

(b) whether such card passes have been issued for life or are subject to renewal at specified interval or subject to check against misuse?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(b) To check against possibility of misuse, complimentary card passes are issued to various categories with validity of one year or a maximum of two years at a time to be renewed thereafter. In case of complimentary card passes issued to ex-Minister of Railways, ex-Minister of State for Railways, ex-Deputy Minister of Railways, Nobel laureate Shri Amartya Sen and Ms. Rasoolan Bibi, widow of Late Abdul Hamid, Param Veer Chakra Awardee, the validity is for life time.